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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 006197

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR BURNS/SATTERFIELD/DIBBLE;  
NEA/SA/EX FOR RICHIE; DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR  
DS/IP/NEA;  
DRL FOR A/S CRANER; NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN;  
USAID FOR DCHA, DCHA/FPP, PRM FOR DEWEY/GREENE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KWBG PHUM PREL PTER ASEC CASC GZ IS](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: ONE SOLDIER KILLED, FOUR INJURED  
DURING GAZA INCURSION: DECEMBER 7, 2004 (1200 HOURS LOCAL)

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

**1.** (SBU) Summary: A member of the IDF canine unit and his dog were killed near Karni Crossing December 7 when an IED exploded as soldiers were conducting a search for weapons. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack. Four additional IDF soldiers were injured in the ensuing gun battle as they attempted to extricate the soldier, and at least 7 Palestinians were also injured, three of whom later died of their injuries. A PIJ militant was killed in a missile strike conducted from a UAV in the same area later in the morning. A total of 180 agricultural laborers were allowed to enter Israel at Erez for work December 7, for the first time in months. A limited number of merchants are also being allowed to enter on a daily basis. In the West Bank, the IDF arrested 27 Palestinians in the West Bank on security charges on December 6, and destroyed a multi-story residential building in East Jerusalem for lack of a building permit.  
End Summary.

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West Bank  
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**2.** (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: Nil.

-- Arrests: The IDF arrested 27 Palestinians in the West Bank primarily in Nablus, Qalqilya and Bethlehem, on security charges December 6, according to Palestinian sources.

-- Demolitions: The IDF destroyed a multi-story residential building and two shops in the Jabl Muqabr neighborhood of East Jerusalem for lack of a building permit, according to Israeli media and local activists. This is the seventh demolition in ten days in the Jerusalem area.

**3.** (SBU) SEPARATION BARRIER: Barrier construction is underway east of Neve Yaakov settlement in Jerusalem, next to built-up areas in al-Ram.

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Gaza  
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**4.** (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths/Injuries: The IDF reported that a member of the IDF canine unit and his dog were killed in the early morning hours December 7 when an IED exploded as they were conducting a search for weapons in the area between the Nahal Oz and the Karni Crossings. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack. Four additional IDF soldiers were injured in the ensuing gun battle as they attempted to extricate the soldier. At least 7 Palestinians were also injured, three of whom later died. Israeli media reported that a PIJ militant was killed in an IAF missile strike conducted from a UAV in the same area later in the morning (see "Incursions/Demolitions").

-- Injuries: The IDF reported that shrapnel injured one Palestinian worker December 6 near Neve Dekalim settlement (see "Mortars/Rockets").

-- Catch-up item: Injuries: UNRWA reported that two Palestinians were injured December 5 in the al-Barahma area of the Rafah refugee camp during an exchange of fire between Palestinians militants and IDF soldiers.

-- Mortars/Rockets: The IDF reported that Palestinian militants fired one Qassam rocket into Israel near Kibbutz Or Haner and four mortar shells at Neve Dekalim settlement December 6. One Palestinian worker was injured in the mortar attack on Neve Dekalim, according to the IDF.

-- Explosions: The IDF reported that IDF soldiers found and safely disposed of a 40-kilogram explosive device near the Sufa Crossing December 6. Hamas militants detonated an explosive device near the Karni Crossing December 7, killing an IDF soldier, according to the IDF (see Deaths/Injuries" and "Incursions/Demolitions").

**15. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS:**

-- UNRWA reported that IDF undercover units, supported subsequently by APCs and IAF helicopters, entered the area between the Nahal Oz and Karni Crossings just after midnight December 7 to search for weapons, according to IDF and Israeli media reports. Militants gathered to repel the incursion. One IDF soldier and his bomb-sniffing dog were killed when an IED detonated, and four other soldiers were wounded trying to recover the body. The clashes continued throughout the night and into the day, with a total of two Palestinians reported killed and at least ten more injured, according to UNRWA. The operation is ongoing as of 1200 hours.

-- UNRWA reported that three IDF bulldozers and five armored vehicles entered eastern al-Qarara (south of the Kissufim road, near Khan Yunis) December 5, uprooting 30 dunams of olive trees before withdrawing.

**16. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:**

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open December 7, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction.

-- Erez Crossing was open for internationals and for a limited number of Palestinian merchants December 6-7. A reported 102 merchants crossed into Israel December 6, and 67 crossed into Israel December 7. UNRWA reported that 180 agricultural laborers (married and over age 30) entered Israel December 7.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone remained closed December 6-7, although 70 factory owners were allowed entry to the zone to inspect their property December 6, and 69 were allowed entry December 7.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers December 7, but was open for the import of aggregates used in construction.

-- Karni Terminal was open but reportedly operating slowly.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures December 7. Although the IDF no longer prohibits the exit of male Palestinians age 16-35 from the Gaza Strip lengthy checks at the border mean that few Palestinians in this category are actually able to exit. There are no age restrictions for entry into Gaza.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed December 7. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi.

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